

NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD MANSION Mepal Manor Becomes Center for Motivation and Change

by Pam Stebbins

Should this say: Mepal Manor, originally known as the Bloodgood mansion, has new owners. Beginning in early 2014, the building and the surrounding property will become the Center for Motivation and Change, a residential rehabilitation facility for adults who want to take time out to reassess highly stressed lives. Participants will take part in an intensive thirty-day treatment program to help them slow down and begin to develop a new lifestyle.

The Center for Motivation and Change (CMC) is a unique, private group practice of dedicated clinicians and researchers in New York City, specializing in treatment of substance use and compulsive behaviors. The ten-year-old program presently serves 250 to 300 clients on an outpatient basis. CMC cofounders Jeff Foote, Ph.D., Carrie Wilkens, Ph.D., and Dr. Wilkens' husband, Will



About 100 friends, family, and customers gathered for a farewell sunset cocktail party at Mepal Manor on July 31. This ended twelve years of ownership and management by Leslie Miller and Brad Wagstaff of this Country House Hotel and Spa. Mepal Manor became the Center for Motivation and Change on August 1.

Regan, have formed a partnership to add an intense residential treatment component to the current CMC roster of services. Dr. Foote will be the executive director of CMC Berkshires.

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١	will be retained for physical training, yoga, meditation, and "adventure therapy"; the
1	rest of the space will be reconfigured to provide administrative and therapy rooms.
	When asked about the staffing of the program, Dr. Foote responded that CMC
١	will have three to five Ph.D. psychologists, a medical director, several nurses, and
(eight to ten "mental health technicians." There will also be adjunct staff working in
ć	areas such as nutrition and exercise; additional people will be hired to handle food
S	service, housekeeping, etc.
	Each resident will have a highly individualized weekday schedule taking them
f	from 7:00 in the morning to 7:00 in the evening. The cornerstone of the treatment
2	approach is motivational, helping each client find a path toward changes that he

or she can truly embrace. CMC provides the structure and tools to pursue that

Changes to the property are already underway. A courtyard with a fountain is

being created as the main entryway. The footprint for a stone pathway to connect

the main house and the former spa building is evidence of the desire to create more of

a campus feel to the property. Some of the existing space in the former spa building

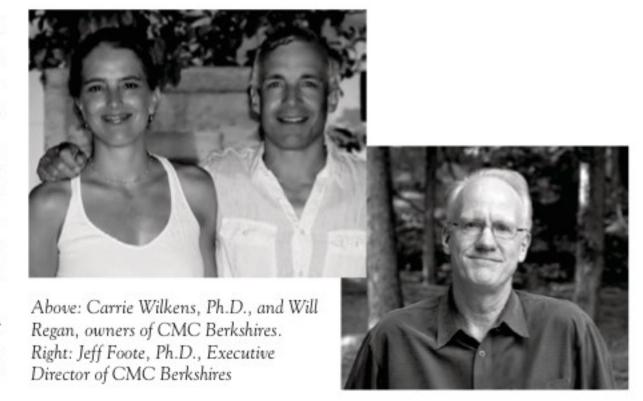
photo by Eric Capstick

Mepal Manor, continued from page 1

path, with the goal of helping people develop a more balanced and positive lifestyle in contrast to their present lifestyle. Planning for ongoing support of their new lifestyle will be an important component of the program.

Weekends will be a time for family visits and group treatment. Local field trips may be offered on Saturday, and Sunday can be a day for rest. Residents will be encouraged to explore the surrounding property and adjacent trails for exercise and relaxation.

For additional information on the Center for Motivation and Change, go to their web site at: www.motivationandchange.com.



REMINDER FROM THE NEW MARLBOROUGH PLANNING BOARD

We heard you! Your feedback from the public information meetings and town survey resulted in the following proposed NM Protective By-law revisions:

- Two (2) Distinct Districts
 - -Rural Agricultural District
 - -Village Center Districts which will maintain the 1 acre lot size
- No Change in Property Taxes
- No Impact on Septic/Water Permitting
- · Pre-existing lots are "Grandfathered"
- 2,000 square foot cap on By Right retail businesses
- Retail uses in the Village Centers increase from 27 to 48
- By-Right uses in the Village Centers increase from 9 to 20

Don't leave the future of our Town to chance.

Be sure to VOTE at the Special Town Meeting to be held later this fall



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CEMETERY RESTORATION

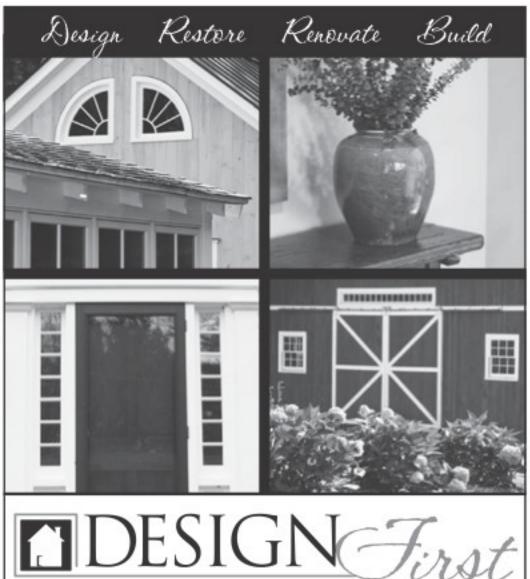
The cemetery restoration project of the New Marlborough Historical Society took place for a week beginning August 19. Expert restorers James Fannin and Minxie Lehner carried out the work at the New Marlborough village cemetery. They were observed and/or assisted by interested community members.





Left: Restorers Fannin and Lehner, center, with interested volunteers Nat Yohalem and Elizabeth and Alan Lombardi. Above: Robbie Parsons and Blake Ferrara bend their backs to the task of

building up the foundation for resetting a gravestone.



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Town Business Is Your Business BOARD OF SELECTMEN

June 24: All three Selectmen were present for this week's meeting, which was held at the

firehouse. Chairman Nat Yohalem opened the meeting by expressing his thanks to Fire Chief Chuck Loring for inviting the Board, saying, "It was very kind of you, and we hope to have more of them here."

In a follow-up to a letter she'd written to the Selectmen, Gretchen Long of Hadsell Street expressed her interest in acquiring from the Town a 6.6-acre hillside parcel of land that fronts the Canaan Southfield Road directly across from her Hadsell Street property known as 1740 Farm. She said her interest is purely in preserving the land in its natural state. "I don't have any intention of putting a building on it." she said, "I'd like to keep it looking just the way it is today." The land is part of an 8.1-acre parcel that recently reverted to the Town for non-payment of taxes. The other 1.5 acres is being acquired by the New Marlborough Land Trust for incorporation into the recently dedicated Robert Joffe Nature Sanctuary (See Board of Selectman report in the May NM5VN). Ms. Long said she has lived at 1740 Farm since the 1960s and that the house is the oldest house in New Marlborough. She said she is willing to pay the back taxes and related fees, which for the entire 8.1-acre parcel amount to nearly \$30,000, and to keep it on the tax rolls, assuming the Town can work out "constructive pricing" for the parcel, which is currently assessed at \$137,000. The Board noted that before negotiating a price, however, it will have to send a letter to all abutters notifying them that the land is available, with a copy to Ms. Long.

The Board granted a one-day permit to the Fire Company to sell beer and wine at its annual pig roast dinner on August 17. It also voted to approve the recommended pay increases of \$1.00 an hour and \$.29 an hour, respectively, to Highway Department employees Chris Chaffee and Lynn Rieneke-Kelsey.

Chairman Yohalem announced that the Board is losing its administrative secretary, Nicole Reid, who is resigning effective August 8 to take a customer service position with the Jane Iredale skin care company in Great Barrington. He praised her work, saying she'd "done a fabulous job" during the past fourteen months. He noted that her resignation creates not only a vacancy at the Town Hall but also one at the Highway Department, where she works as part-time clerk. At the recommendation of Mr. Yohalem, the Board voted to combine the two positions so that the Board Secretary would also work as the Highway Department clerk on an as-needed basis up to a maximum number of hours. Separately, Mr. Yohalem

said that Finance Committee member Bill Hattendorf has resigned, stating that he will

no longer be residing in New Marlborough during the winter months, and that the Finance Committee will discuss a possible replacement at its August 8 meeting.

The Board voted to approve the following Town office appointments, retroactive to July 1:

David Hosford to the Historical Commission for a oneyear term.

Michelle Dawson to the Board of Registrars for a threevear term.

Anne Sommers to the Cultural Council for a threeyear term.

Claudette Callahan to the Historical Commission for a one-year term; she'd mistakenly been appointed to the Cultural Council.

Maureen Hosford, who had earlier been appointed to the Cultural Council, was declared ineligible because she had already served the maximum six years allowed by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The following people were appointed to one-year terms as Town Election Officers: Charles Parton, Roger Levine, Elizabeth Olenbush, Pia Bellinger, Jack Bellinger, Elizabeth Miller, Joan Clark, Flora Winterbottom, Barbara Kelly, Beverly Litchfield, Prudence Spaulding, Scott Farrell, Laura Davis, Maureen Krejci, Christina Parton, Deloris Davis, Joyce Scala, Myra Riiska, Jane Tant, Stephaine Chretien, and Tara White.

Finally, Chuck Loring was appointed to a one-year term as highway superintendent, retroactive to June 10. Mr. Loring had previously signed a contract but had not been officially appointed to the position.

Mr. Yohalem noted that at a previous meeting a question was raised as to whether a second-home owner might be permitted to vote on non-financial matters at town meetings. He said the answer from town counsel is "no, you can only vote in one jurisdiction," and that a homeowner would have to register in New Marlborough in order to vote there.

In the latest bridge developments, Nicole Reid reported that the engineering and design specifications for the Canaan Southfield Road culvert near Foley Hill have been completed and are awaiting approval by the state, after which the bid packages will go out. As reported earlier, the work is being paid for by a \$500,000 grant from the MassWorks Infrastructure Program. And in a unanimous vote the Board awarded the design and engineering contract for the Clayton Mill River Road culvert to Stantec Consulting Service of Northampton

over Foresight Land Services of Pittsfield. Both firms had submitted proposals priced at around \$30,000, but the Stantec proposal envisioned repairing the culvert at an estimated cost of \$130,000, versus the Foresight proposal to replace the culvert for around \$260,000. Stantec was a late starter in the bidding process, having submitted its proposal in July, whereas Foresight's bid was originally submitted in February. Mr. Yohalem expressed regret that the Town would not be accepting the Foresight proposal "because Foresight has been with us all along and put in a tremendous amount of work, revising its proposal a number of times."

August 12: All three Selectmen were present for the first order of business, which was to authorize a \$3,600 payment to Foresight Land Services for the work it did on the engineering phase of the Clayton Mill River Road culvert project. Although Foresight did not win the engineering contract, it was the Board's feeling that the firm and its engineer, Steve Mack, had put in so much time and effort on the project that it was owed some amount of compensation. Moreover, as Chairman Yohalem pointed out, not only did the Board have a moral obligation to do this, it may also have had a legal one, having verbally committed to Foresight that it would be awarded the contract. "So I asked Steve what his profit would have been had we awarded it to them," Mr. Yohalem continued, "and his answer was 12 percent [of the \$30,000 bid], which comes out to about \$3,600." The vote to authorize the payment was unanimous.

In a related note, the Board agreed it would not convene a Special Town Meeting in September to ask the voters for borrowing authority to fund the culvert work. Previously, the Board had planned to call such a meeting prior to September 15, which is when the 21/2 percent spending override, approved at last May's annual town election, is due to expire. "But I think it's premature," Mr. Yohalem said. "We had wanted to put together a bid package for the project so we could go to the Town and say this is what it will cost, but we don't have that number yet." So, instead, funding approval will probably have to wait until next year. But as Selectman Shalaby pointed out, the work to repair the culvert can't begin until the low-flow period for Brewer Brook, which the culvert spans, and "that doesn't start until July 1. So it's not going to happen until after the Annual Town Election anyway," she said. But the Board did indicate that it may have to call a special town meeting by the end of November for a vote on revising the Town's Protective Bylaws, as proposed by the Planning Board. That vote, by law, needs to take place within six months of the public hearing on the bylaw revisions, which was held on May 28.

In other bridge news, Mr. Yohalem said the Town has received comments from the state's Department of Transportation on the bid package for the Canaan Southfield Road culvert, which he understands to be minor, and that BSC Group, the engineering contractor for the culvert, is currently revising the specifications to conform to the comments. At that point, Mr. Yohalem said, the bid package will be sent out, leaving about a two-week window before the bids can be opened and a contract awarded, which will probably take place by the middle of September. He also noted the Town is already owed approximately \$47,000 by MassWorks for engineering work done on the culvert in May and June and that the July bill will be submitted shortly.

The Board voted to approve the appointment of former Highway Superintendent Peter Marks to the position of backup constable. As Chairman Yohalem noted, "He's served in that position in the past and has indicated he would like to be reappointed. I think it's a good idea to have a backup in case Edgar [Zukauskas] for health reasons is unable to do it." The vote was two for approval, with Selectman White abstaining.

Mr. Yohalem said the Board interviewed three candidates for the recently vacated position of board secretary and had made an offer to Jessica Bosworth, which was tentatively accepted pending a discussion with the Board regarding a start date and other details, to take place at the August 26 meeting. A resident of Housatonic, Ms. Bosworth previously worked as an assistant manager in the natural foods department at Guido's. Separately, the Board announced it will hold another meeting on a Saturday, this one on October 12, at the New Marlborough Meeting House starting at 10 a.m.

Selectman White reported on the most recent meeting of the School Committee's capital improvement group, also known as the Building, and Grounds, and Technology Committee, which both she and Mr. Yohalem attended. The focus of the meeting, which was held July 29, was on what the annual savings in maintenance and operating costs would be if any or all of the three outlying schools were closed. She said the numbers are as follows: Monterey \$110,000 per year; New Marlborough, \$238,000, and Egremont, \$108,000, for a total potential savings of \$459,000. As Mr. Yohalem was quick to point out, these figures do not include any capital costs, which will be the subject of the next meeting. The numbers are important, he said, because if there's a bond issue the voters will want to know "what we would save by closing one, two, or three of the outlying schools. So the next meeting will be an interesting one," he said. That meeting will be held in September, although as of this writing no date has been set.

THE WAY WE WERE

by Joe Poindexter

An Occasional Look Back Through the Eyes of Long-Time New Marlborough Residents – This Month:

Pat and Howard Nourse

Here's one way to become sweethearts back in the day: Pat Stanton and Howard Nourse, student council representatives for their respective classes — Pat was a sophomore, Howard a junior at New Marlborough High — were returning from a meeting in Springfield when a snowstorm sprang up, and the car in which they were riding lost traction on the long hill on Route 57 west of Sandisfield. To alert parents to their late arrival, Howard set out on foot for the general store, two to three miles back in the village of New Boston.

"There happened to be a fellow there in the store," says Howard, "and he says, 'Oh, I can get you up the hill.' So he took his car – he had chains on – and pushed us up

the hill." Of course, I was soaked by the time I got back there; it was snowing and everything."

"So I took my sweater off, a cardigan sweater, and gave it to him," recalls Pat.

"And I guess," says Howard, "that was when I first realized she was around. And then she asked me to the Sadie Hawkins Day Dance. That was

the start of it."

"That was it. He was cold and wet, and he was shivering. He had loafers on and a corduroy jacket."

"A corduroy blazer,"
says Howard. "That
was some wet snowstorm."

Whatever it was in that gesture of kindness, Pat and Howard read it well. They have been married fifty-six years and continue to be so completely in sync that the stories they tell about themselves are like a well-harmonized duet. Of course, they had been acquainted long before that fateful snowstorm, having attended school together for ten years.

Pat, the daughter of Eldred and Mildred Stanton, grew up in the Stanton house in the middle of Mill River,



Pat and Howard Nourse in their Monterey home.

where she was born. (Her parents, too, were born in New Marlborough.) Howard, born in Great Barrington, moved to a house on Mill River Great Barrington Road when he was three. Both attended New Marlborough Central from kindergarten on, Howard a year ahead of Pat.

Schoolteachers operated on a "spare-the-rod-spoil-the-

child" principle, occasionally wielding a ruler across the knuckles to reinforce the need for classroom decorum. Pat recalls the day graffiti were discovered on the bathroom wall at school. The entire class was put to work scrubbing the bathroom walls, until the guilty party owned up to the misdeed. And back then, there was no appealing the harshness of the penalty at home. "I would have gotten my mouth washed out



Above: Pat as a baby. Left: At age eight, Pat played clarinet in the school band.

with soap if I was disrespectful to somebody and my folks found out about it," says Pat.

Elders were addressed in a curious mix of respect and familiarity. "The people I saw all the time," says Pat, "I didn't call them Mrs. Stannard or Mrs. Morgan. I was told to call them Aunt Jane and Aunt Viola. Mrs. Murray, who ran the Mill River Post Office, was Aunt Agnes. The Nourse's daughter, Thea, was for a long time under the impression that her mother was a member of a huge extended family.

Pat and her closest friends, Winnie Dow (now Keeney), Mary Smith (Barton), and Helen Love (Gilvar), all born within months of each other in 1939, did everything together. They rode bikes, played hide and seek, skated, and sledded. They converted an abandoned chicken house behind Winnie's grandmother's house into a playhouse. They even had their own island, a sandy outcrop in the Konkapot River behind the Stanton (now Ormsbee) Garage.

ew e a Oh d s s ng r o ur ns



Howard and Pat (left) with Helen Love and Dick O'Hara at the 1955 New Marlborough High prom.

Howard was a member of the last high school class to graduate from New Marlborough Central. Of the nine seniors, seven are still in touch. "We call them our 'Forever Friends'," says Pat, who moved with Howard to a house they built in Monterey in 2000. Pat had had an adverse reaction to the mold and mildew that had gathered in the Stanton Mill River house, where they had planned to settle after Pat's mother died. (They have now retired, Pat from secretarial work, and Howard as

> SUSAN M. SMITH Attorney At Law

32 Corser Hill Road Great Barrington Massachusetts 01230 Telephone (413) 229-7080 Facsimile (413) 229-7085 email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net manager of Taylor Rental in Great Barrington. Pat has invented a new career for herself: creating youth quilts that she donates to children in Massachusetts hospitals. At the latest count, she had given away 275 of them.)

Howard was among the first of his group to acquire wheels, first a Model A Ford inherited from his father and then a '41 Plymouth he bought himself. "We would pool our money," says Howard. "We'd buy a couple of gallons – you could buy gas for twenty-five cents a gallon – and ride around town. You had a lot of friends when you had a car."

And owning a car didn't hurt in making an impression on a date. "We used to go to Canaan, where there was a movie theater with a bowling alley in the basement," says Pat.

"I used to pick you up, and we'd go to school together."

"I know. We went to three proms together, my sophomore and junior year down here and Mount Everett my senior year."

"And I took your friend Anita to the first prom."

"Well, I didn't go to that one. I was too young. I saw you go by."

It took a well-timed snowstorm and a cardigan sweater to put Pat in the '41 Plymouth for the next prom.



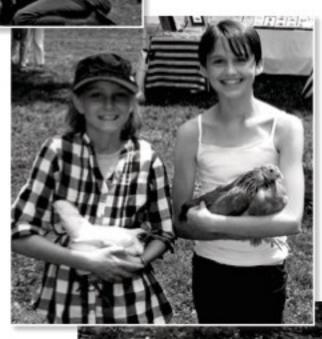




The thirty-ninth Elihu Burritt Day took place on August 17, a perfect summer day. There was an array of crafts, food, books, and white elephants, and a variety of entertainments. Highlights were the presentation of the Elihu Burritt Award for community service to Jane and Larry Burke and the performance of Elihu?, a play created and produced by budding young New Marlborough playwrights.

Photos by Ed Harvey, Larry Burke, and Louise Yohalem.





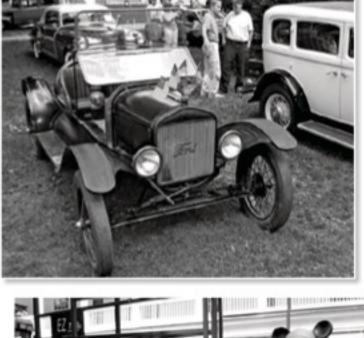
























Elihu lives! Nan Smith, of New Marlborough village, received a grant from the New Marlborough Cultural Council for youngsters to research, create, and produce the play Elihu? under the guidance of Kristen Sparhawk, depicting the life of Elihu Burritt in New Marlborough. It was performed on August 17, Elihu Burritt Day, in the New Marlborough Meeting House, and was highly praised by an enthusiastic audience.

Photos by Larry Burke.











Music & More Meeting House Programs for September

Weekends in September will be a busy time in the New Marlborough Meeting House. Three musical events are scheduled for September 7, 21, and 28 in the main room upstairs. The New Marlborough Artists show in the Meeting House Gallery is open from August 30 through September 29. The main room programs begin at 4:30 p.m.

The first musical offering on September 7 is titled License My Roving Hands: Letters, Lyrics and Music from Geoffrey Chaucer to John Donne. Jonathan Epstein, an actor with Shakespeare & Company will narrate this program accompanied by Calliope, a Renaissance Band. Music by William Byrd, Gibbons, John

Dowland, Anthony Holborne, and others will be performed on period instructments, including recorders, fiddle, viols, shawm, cornetto, sackbut, and an assortment of drums and tambourines. There is a free preconcert talk at 3:30.

The second musical offering, on September 21, features the Apollo Trio performing Mozart's Trio in G major; Rachmaninov's Trio Elegiaque #1, and Schubert's momumental Trio in E major, Op. 100.

Karen Akers Sings Cole Porter on Saturday, September 28, is the final







musical offering of the 2013 season. Ms. Akers has appeared in many prestigious venues worldwide, including Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl. This event will be followed by a gala wine tasting by Domaney's of Great Barrington.

Tickets for the music concerts are \$20 for NMVA members and \$25 for non-members. All programs are followed by a reception with the artists in the Meeting House Gallery. For tickets and information: www.newmarlborough.org or call (413) 229-2785.

Local New Marlborough artists in this year's exhibit include Aline Bove, Betsey Wells Farber, Robert Forte, Joan Griswold, Cheryl Ann Luft, Rebecca Schreiber, Elizabeth Torsay-Wilson and Andrew Zdziarski.

The Gallery is open from 11:00 to 4:00 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from August 30 - September 29.

Music & More is sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association and is located on the New Marlborough Village Green.

The Apollo Trio, top; Jonathan Epstein, middle; Karen Akers and Don Rebic, bottom

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

THE LOG

New Marlborough Police Department Report, July 2013

It has been a rather busy summer for the police department. The perfect storm of events occurred this past spring and early summer and adjusted some of our priorities. One notable change that has been occurring for some time is the increase in firearms applications. This is affecting both local departments and the state as a whole. Numbers are up significantly (three times what we did last year), and we have adjusted some of our scheduling and appointments to keep better track of these applications and the process. See the Town's website for scheduling changes.

We were also dealing with some changes to our yearly recertification, our new log and records computer program and its implementation timeline, an increase in calls, and officers on vacation.

I would like to keep up the process, but our call volume is making the old format difficult to fit into the paper. By the end of July, we had a total of 370 calls for service. I have summarized the past month here (major calls), and will be looking at a more streamlined model for future logs. We have gotten over our hump, and I will continue to post our log and update you on police news.

> Sincerely, Scott Farrell, Police Chief

July 2013:

Breaking and entering – 2 Larceny – 2 MV Accident - 4

Suspicious Activity – 5 Alarm/911 calls - 10 Arrests - 2



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New Marlborough **Artists Show**

August 31 thru September 29

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Aline Bove Betsey Wells Farber Robert Forte Joan Griswold Cheryl Ann Luft Rebecca Schreiber

Elizabeth Torsay-Wilson Andrew Zdziarski

Opening on Friday, August 30, 5 to 7 PM

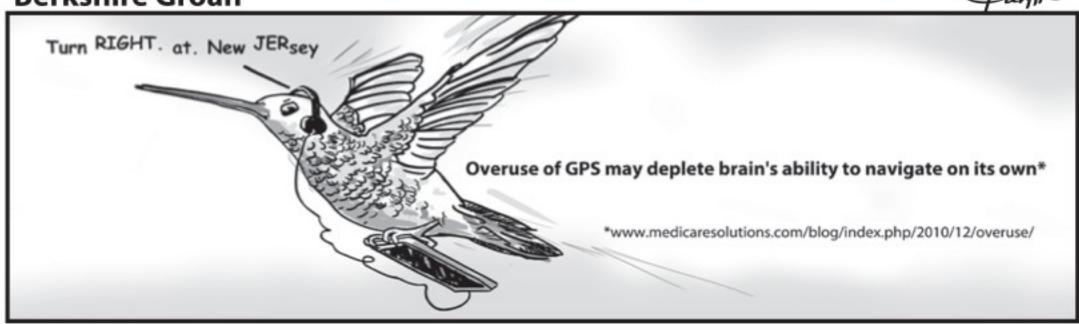
Gallery Days are Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays 11AM to 4PM At the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery On Rt 57 New Marlborough, MA Presented by The New Marlborough Village Association

FIRE AND RESCUE

July 2	9:21 a.m.	Lakeside Road Medical Call	July 15	2:00 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road
July 8	3:03 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington			Fire Alarm
	5.50	Medical Call	July 16	3:20 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road
July 9	7:59 p.m.	Old County Road Medical Call			Fire Alarm
July 10	4:55 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical	July 16	8:40 p.m.	Cross Road to Canaan Valley
		Call			Medical Call
July 13	9:00 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road	July 18	12:45 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington
		Medical Call		0	Medical Call
July 13		Hartsville New Marlborough Road	July 18	2:50 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road
		Fire Alarm	120.007 (2.00)	11 (A) (A) 4 (A) = 1 (A) (A) (A) (A)	Fire Alarm
July 13	11:35 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call	July 23	2:15 p.m.	Foley Hill Road Medical Call
July 15	3:00 a.m.	Canaan, Conn. Medical Transfer	July 27	11:30 a.m.	Juniper Hill Road Fire Alarm

Berkshire Groan







At the historic Meeting House in scenic New Marlborough, Massachusetts

For lovers of world-class music and lively literary chat. – Rural Intelligence

8 Saturdays at 4:30 pm August-October

Sept 7 License My Roving Hands ~ Letters, Lyrics and Music from Geoffrey Chaucer to John Donne

Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm Actor Jonathan Epstein with Calliope, A Renaissance Band

Music by William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons, John Dowland, Anthony Holborne on period instruments





Sept 28 Anything Goes!

Karen Akers sings Cole

Porter with Don Rebic, piano

"Karen Akers singing Cole Porter is

"Karen Akers singing Cole Porter is an exremely elegant evening that sends you soaring on a very high plane indeed."

- Rex Read, New York Observer

Sept 21 The Apollo Trio

Curtis Macomber, violin; Michael Kannen, cello; Marija Stroke, piano.

Mozart's Trio in G major, K. 564; Rachmaninov's youthful Trio Élégiaque #1 in G minor and Schubert's monumental Trio in E^b major, Op. 100, (D.929)



Oct 5 Award-Winning Authors

Hosted by Mitchel Levitas of the NY Times.
Elizabeth Graver's latest novel is The End of the Point.
Robert K. Massie is the author Catherine the Great:
Portrait of a Woman. Katherine Hall Page's latest
book in the Faith Fairchild mystery series is The Body in
the Piazza.

Gala wine tasting hosted by Domaney's

Receptions with the artists after the performances • Art Gallery Shows through Sept. 28

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION: www.newmarlborough.org (413) 229-2785

Neighbors



Michael Fleming, of Mill River, died unexpectedly at age fifty on July 6, while visiting family in Connecticut. A lifelong resident of New Marlborough and a 1980 graduate of Mount Everett High School, he was a self-employed caretaker who took great pride in his work. He enjoyed many outdoor activities, but above all cherished time spent with his extensive family and friends.

Priscilla "Skip" Stanton died on August 1 at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Born in Canaan, Connecticut, in 1928, she moved to New Marlborough when she married Jack Stanton in 1981. Skip was known for being a skilled seamstress and maker of beautiful pine cone wreaths. She was a staunch supporter of the New Marlborough Town Library for decades, and a trustee for many years. Her car was instantly recognizable by its numerous passengers, Sheltie dogs.

Southfield resident Rebecca Odegaard passed away in June. Rebecca and her husband of forty years, Ned, came to the Berkshires four years ago for a bed and breakfast stay – and left with a home in Southfield. And then family arrived. In addition to Ned, Rebecca is survived by her mother, Beth MacKenzie (Southfield), daughter and son-in-

law Kenzie and Shawn Fields along with their three children (Mill River), and son and daughter-in-law Jamie and Jen Odegaard (Ashley Falls and Boston). Rebecca also has three siblings. Rebecca and Ned raised their family in New York, New Jersey, Holland, England, and Australia.

Nell MacKenzie passed away at her home on Adsit Crosby Road on August 19 at the age of eighty-two. She was devoted to her family as a mother, grandmother, and aunt; she and her husband, Robert, were married for sixty-two years. She was also a dedicated teacher, working for twenty-one years as a paraprofessional at New Marlborough Central School before retiring in 1994. For many years she was the prime mover of the family's vegetable stand, and loved tending to her own garden. Nell sought the best in everyone and everything, and was an inspiration to those whose lived she touched.

As this issue of the NM5VN was going to print, Herb Abelow, of Mill River and Southfield, passed away on August 23. More information will appear in the October issue.

Following the sale of Mepal Manor and Spa, former owners Leslie Miller and Brad Wagstaff will spend the next few weeks preparing for a barn sale of Mepal Manor artifacts. The sale is scheduled for the late fall. Further down the line, Leslie and Brad may expand their wedding business at Gedney Farm to offer a la carte dinners to the public, Thursdays through Sundays. The NM5VN will keep you posted on both activities.

Leslie Miller and Brad Wagstaff



compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuuell@yahoo.com

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Our Wildlife Neighbors

n July 22, Laura Endacott, of Mill River, writes: It looks like we now have a "kettle" of black vultures in Mill River. I have spotted three now, which I assume are mother, father (black vultures mate for life), and baby, which is not much smaller than the parents.

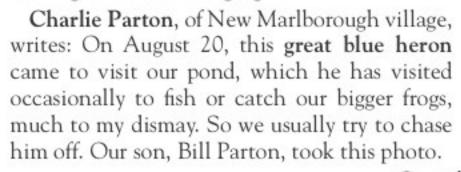
On July 23, Mike Bruns, camp volunteer at Camp Wa Wa Segowea, writes: I've heard there's an overabundance of bear in the area and, sure enough, I saw this one just this past Sunday! He or she seems to be more brazen these days, coming out in the middle of the day to eat. I was able to shoot these from a safe distance away in my car.

On July 28, Don Beauchamp, of Clayton, writes: Not much on birds here, but cedar waxwings have returned to the trees below the bridge [over the Konkapot]. I've seen very few butterflies. The wren took over the bluebird house and stuffed it with twigs, so I emptied it. The male bluebird tried to chase him away but it didn't work. Mosquitoes are taking over the world.



On August 7, Don adds: I've been lucky with hummingbirds. Got some good photos. I've also been seeing large flocks of red-winged blackbirds gathering for their flight south.

On August 8, Barry Shapiro, who lives on Hickey Hill Road, writes: On Sunday, August 4, at about 11:00 a.m., my wife, Marjorie, and I and our nine-year-old granddaughter, Clara, were walking down the driveway when we saw a very large, black shape standing about 100 feet ahead of us. What first looked like a buffalo turned out to be a very sizeable black bear, which stood motionless right in the middle of the driveway, looked at us, and then turned and ran off into the woods. No one will again drive past that spot in the driveway without searching the woods, looking for this amazing sight.









Compiled by Jon Swan, joncswan@gmail.com



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UPCOMING: Event Calendar for September and October

August 30: New Marlborough Artists, oils, watercolors, photographs, and other works by eight local artists; wine and cheese opening, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.; on view thereafter 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through September 29.

September 6: Everything you ever wanted to know about Elihu Burritt, a talk by Burritt expert, Robert Wolff, professor of history at Central Connecticut State University, presented by the New Marlborough Historical Society, 6:00 p.m., Meeting House Gallery; free and open to the public.

September 7: License My Roving Hands, Jonathan Epstein of Shakespeare & Co. presents the bawdy, romantic, and poetic words of Chaucer, Henry VIII, Donne, and Aubrey, accompanied by the renaissance tunes of Calliope, 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, pre-concert talk at 3:30; \$25; \$20 for NMVA members.

September 21: The Apollo Trio, performing Mozart, Rachmaninoff, and Schubert; 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, \$25; \$20 for NMVA members.

September 28: Anything Goes (as long as it's Cole Porter). The chanteuse, Karen Akers goes Cole-istic, accompanied by pianist Don Rebic. Followed by a wine tasting hosted by the one and only Domaney's of Great Barrington; 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, \$25; \$20 for NMVA members.

October 5: Award Winning Authors, insights into the process of writing from novelist Elizabeth Graver, mystery writer Katherine Hall Page, and biographer Robert K. Massie; 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, \$15, \$10 for NMVA members. Booksigning and reception follow the discussion.





15TH ANNUAL NEW MARLBOROUGH ARTISTS SHOW

By Elizabeth Lombardi

right New Marlborough artists share Lin the Meeting House Gallery's fifteenth annual show of local talent. Participants range from Joan Griswold, whose light filled paintings have been shown in several prestigious galleries including the Horn-Ashley Gallery in Nantucket and New York, to Cheryl Luft, who has just recently gone public with her sensitive photography of the natural environment. Watercolorist Aline Bove, who began serious art studies at the Pratt Institute in New York, exhibits an oriental influence in her watercolors of flowers, which she acquired when she taught at Kyunghee University in Seoul, South Korea.

Another photographer, Betsey Wells Farber, is one of several artists in the show whose talents range beyond their present medium. While her work presently focuses on interior spaces, her background ranges from a degree and work in architecture to an awardwinning verse translation of Beowulf. Robert Forte, whose interest in art started early and included the New York High School of Music and Art, went on to a career in law based on a degree from Harvard Law School. Returning to his early passion for art in 2000, he studied with Philip Pearlstein among others, and his work has been exhibited at the Front Street Gallery in Housatonic as well as the Red Dot Exhibition of best paintings at the Art Students League in New York. His







Paintings by Robert Forte (top), Joan Griswold (middle), and Elizabeth Torsay-Wilson (bottom)

striking oil paintings range from vibrant landscapes to glowing flowers in situ.

Two of the full-time residents of South County are Andrew Zdziarski Torsay-Wilson. Elizabeth and Andrew is a self-taught artist, who works at night after his "day job," creating inner landscapes that utilize various found surfaces. His work has been shown at the Little Gallery in Housatonic. Elizabeth, who has lived in the Berkshires since she was two, describes her oil paintings and drawings as "classical realism." Her work has won many awards including several Best of Show. She is particularly drawn to the natural beauty of this area.

And last, but not least, there is the award-winning folded paper artist Rebecca Schreiber who, along with a fellow paper artist, owns the greeting card business, Papier Confections, where original designs are reproduced on Crane paper. The gallery is showing her colorful, original work.

The 15th Annual New Marlborough Artists Show opens August 30 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Meeting House Gallery on Route 57 near the Old Inn on the Green. The show runs through September 29 and is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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MAILBOX



Dear Editor,

Elihu Burritt Day was very special this year. Although Larry and I were delighted to be honored for our work on behalf of the town, the unsung heroes of the day are the members of the New Marlborough Cultural Council for their continued commitment to holding this very important community event. Having been a member of this council in the past, I am aware of the many hours spent reviewing grant applications every fall. In fact, Flying Cloud's SMArt Summer program was born in 1984 with the first round of Arts Lottery Grants offered by the Massachusetts Cultural Council that established our local Cultural Council in that year. That means almost thirty years of work by our local council! We are very lucky that our council goes beyond their charter and raises additional dollars so they can offer such wonders as the Burritt Day celebration. Thank you to members past and present for your hard work on our behalf.

Another thank you goes to Kristen Sparhawk and Nan Smith for their vision to help our local children bring Elihu? to life for us on the Meeting House stage. It was thrilling to be in that beautiful building surrounded by our community to enjoy the wonders of children expressing themselves. With the expert guidance of two wonderful role models, the actors gave their all to us. Not only did we learn about our history but we were able to celebrate the talents of our young people. What a great combination.

Regards, Jane Burke

To the Editor:

Just wanted to take a minute to say what a great program your little town has for the guardrails, cemeteries, and roadside mowing maintenance. Took some pictures of the work done to take home to my little town to show them what a good job could look like.

Mary Jones

HEART STRONG CLASS

The Berkshire Visiting Nurses Association and Berkshire Health Systems Community Outreach Program are offering free cholesterol screenings at the New Marlborough Town Offices in Mill River, Thursday September 12 from 12 – 1:30 p.m. This is a Heart Strong Program and will include a group education session on cholesterol. A non-fasting finger stick test is performed

on each participant and the results are available to the individual. The class size is limited. If you are interested in joining BVNA and BHS Community Outreach Program for this free cholesterol check and class, please call (413) 447-3052 or email kkelly3@yahoo. com. Registration is required.





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Some 300 people attended the twentieth annual Pig Roast on August 17, hosted by the New Marlborough Fire Department. The crowd enjoyed the food, the face painting, the raffle drawing, and the dancing to the music of Cornerstone, capping a day of community celebration.

Photos by Ed Harvey and Larry Burke.











Two Playwrights in Search of an Audience

by Barbara and David Lowman

'wo New Marlborough play-■ wrights, Jodi Rothe of Cagney Hill Road and Michael Brady of Norfolk Road, have recently had local readings of their new plays. They met one day to compare their experiences and to discuss the important role that a reading has in preparing a new play for eventual production.

Jodi is originally from Los Angeles, where she had extensive experience in writing screenplays and television projects. She came to New York City Jodi Rothe to co-produce a television pilot for CBS and fell in love with the city. She also met Peter Schuyten, whom she later married. While they were living in Princeton, New Jersey, she began writing her own plays. In television scripting, it was frustrating that whatever she wrote was likely to be changed if the project ever went into production. The respect accorded to the writing and the writer of a play provided her with a new and satisfying freedom. They moved to New York, Michael Brady and also acquired the Cagney Hill

property. In 2001 she moved here full time. Peter was still working for The Wall Street Journal during the week, but Jodi spent the week writing in New Marlborough. She maintains professional contacts in Los Angeles and New York, as well as Berkshire County.

Jodi's new play, Dueling Deadlines, had a reading on June 8 at Mixed Company, the theater in Great Barrington. This was a basic, and quite informal, reading with minimal rehearsal time. The audience of fifty-five was a full house. The actors were seated, reading from the script, with the emphasis on the text itself, not the actors' interpretations. The author is able to gauge the audience reaction as the play progresses. Questions and comments from the audience and the actors at the end of the reading also point to areas of the script that need revision for clarity or for plot or character development.

Once the re-write is finished, Jodi's agent will send the script to several producers for their reactions. Often a play will have additional readings for further refinement. One of Jodi's earlier plays, Martha Mitchell Calling, had three readings in New York. It was eventually produced at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, and on the road in Boston, Florida, and St. Louis.

Michael and his wife, Pat, lived in Boston and New York before moving to Southfield fulltime in 1986. He





has had six plays produced in a variety of regional theaters over the years, including one, To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday, which was made into a movie in 1996. He has had arts-related "day jobs" at the Massachusetts Cultural Council in Boston and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket. He has also held several non-arts-related jobs in a career pattern known locally as "the Berkshire Shuffle."

Even a bread-and-butter job can provide occasional inspiration. One day, Michael and a co-worker were setting up Christmas merchandise at a chain pharmacy and came across a rather pathetic Charlie Brown Christmas tree. Michael made a particularly pithy and sarcastic comment that convulsed his co-worker, causing her to temporarily leave the floor because she was laughing so hard. That got Michael's juices flowing and eventually led to Titles, his current play about a playwright who hasn't written a play for some time.

That play was selected by Berkshire Playwrights Lab in Great Barrington for a staged reading at the Mahaiwe Theater on July 24. A staged reading is more elaborate than a "basic" reading; this one involved thirty hours of rehearsal, with numerous overnight rewrites between rehearsals. The venue was much larger than Jodi's at Mixed Company: some 300 people attended the reading. The process was the same, however, of observing the audience reaction during the play, and hearing their questions and comments in the discussion afterwards to highlight areas that need revision.

Jodi and Michael agree that these readings are most helpful in identifying weaknesses in a script and suggesting possible re-writes. They also agree that in the discussion following a reading, "If you have to explain it too often, you have a problem." There are times, which both of them have experienced, when a script simply doesn't work, no matter how many times it is revised. At some point, then, the writer simply needs to "put it in the box and move on."

As the conversation broke up, Michael prepared to stay at the table and work. He removed a script from its envelope. It was The Season, which he had "put in the box" some time ago, and now was giving it another shot.

School Committee Report

by Jane Burke

From interviews with New Marlborough's representatives, Kenzie Fields and Kristen Sparhawk, who will report directly to readers in future issues

The committee is pleased to begin working with David Hastings, our new superintendent, and support him during his transition. Over the summer he showed his commitment to the job by listening to numerous parents, community members, teachers, and students about what he might do to make positive changes in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. There is a palpable enthusiasm about what is now possible under his leadership.

Much of the work on the School Committee is done through sub-committees. In May, an ad hoc transportation committee was formed to look at ways to better serve the district's needs for transportation. Dave Hastings was already demonstrating his inclusive style by developing an online survey for district families. With the skill of a math teacher, he presented the data at a full School Committee meeting, and the following needs were identified: shorter bus routes, a late bus that would enable more students to take advantage of after-school programs, and an additional route to Great Barrington to allow more flexibility for students with jobs, working parents, etc. The committee's overall goal, while expanding the district's transportation options, is to lower costs and to better manage existing routes.

The Buildings, Grounds, and Technology Subcommittee has initiated talks with the Select Boards of the District's five towns, whose sole agenda is to creatively and collaboratively deal with capital needs in the three community schools. Two meetings have been held, and another is scheduled for early fall. Visit the district's website for the School Committee's meeting schedule, minutes, and agendas.

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Contractors # 7614140 Home Improvement Contractors # 170377 Finance Committee members have a number of items to consider. One is reassessing how to finance expensive field trips, like the sixth graders' week at Nature's Classroom and the eighth graders trip to Washington, D.C., to mitigate the financial burden now being shouldered by families. The committee is also considering codifying how to deal with non-union personnel so that consistent rules are in place, and that raises can be easily determined.

A few other news items will be further reported on in the next issue. The New Marlborough Central School library was renovated over the summer. Kristin Sanszon of Hartsville will be the long-term substitute at Mount Everett for biology and agriculture teacher Danielle Molino, who is on maternity leave. A team of community members, including Tim Newman and Lori Fena, of Southfield, with former technology coordinator Paul O'Brien of Sheffield, is submitting a proposal to create a "Makerspace," a place where students can collaborate on learning and creating, on the Sheffield campus. It would be the first in Berkshire County. This exciting proposal will be presented to the School Committee during its second meeting in September.



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Children's Fiction

Paperboy, by Vince Vawter
Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library, by Chris Grabenstein
Write This Book: A Do-It-Yourself Mystery, by Pseudonymous Bosch
Journey, by Aaron Becker
Sophie's Squash, by Pat Zietlow Miller
But I Read It on the Internet, by Toni Buzzeo

Children's Nonfiction

Beyond the Solar System: Exploring Galaxies, Black Holes, Alien Planets, and More: A History With 21 Activities, by Mary Kay Carson

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10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Tues & Fri 1:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Thurs 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. 229-6668

LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS:

▶ Book Discussion Group

Please join us at 10:00 a.m. on September 21 at the New Marlborough Library for coffee, bagels, and a lively discussion of the book, *The Art Forger*, by B.A. Shapiro. Stop in and pick up your copy today.

The New Marlborough Friends of the Library would like to thank everyone who helped make our annual book and bake sale a huge success! A special thanks to:

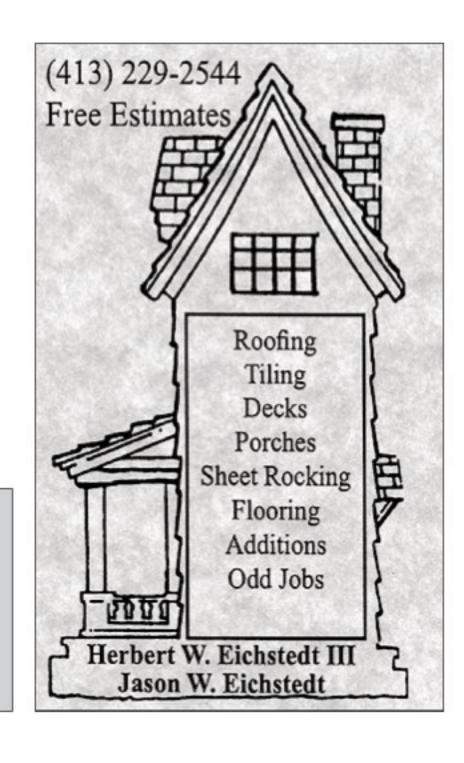
New Marlborough Cultural Council, the McSpiritt family, the Redman family, the Ferrara family, Lesley Moran, Abby Tedesco, Teena Parton, Kitty Cunningham, Jim Platt, Robin Tost, Lisa Beers, Gareth Esersky, Jon Blumenfeld, Brian Mikesell, John Weinstein, Maureen Hosford, Gloria Knapke, Marsha Harvey, and Pam Stebbins.

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- * Conservation Commission: Last Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.
- * Board of Assessors: Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. 1:30 p.m.
- * Fire Department training: Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- * Building Inspector: Monday 5 7 p.m. Wednesday 8 10 a.m.
- * First Responders: meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- * Cultural Council: Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m at the library
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- * Tax Collector: Summer- Mon. & Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- * Selectmen's Administrative Secretary: Monday Friday 10 a.m. 3 p.m.
- * Dog and Animal Control Officer: John Springstube 413-232-7038
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- * Town Hall: 229-8116
- * Police: Business office: 229-8161

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Other businesses can be listed in the Service Sector (see back page). Questions, rates? Call Barbara Lowman: 229-2369

NM5VN Editorial Team

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer; Pam Stebbins, Kenzie Fields, Jane Burke, Charlie Parton, David Lowman, Larry Burke, Martha Bryan, Jon Swan, Peter Schuyten, Joe Poindexter, Marianne Swan, Debra Herman Contributing writers: Janice Boults, Laura Endacott, Ann Getsinger, Mary Richie Smith, and Tara White

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,
also online at www.newmarlborough.org
The next issue will be dated October 2013.
All copy must be submitted no later than September 15.
For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
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